

Claims:

1. A drip chamber in a cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) drainage system comprising:  
a tube having an outer surface; and,  
a vent in fluid communication with the tube, the vent having a filter made of a porous  
5 material wherein the pore size of the filter is about  $3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ .

2. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the porous material is expanded  
polytetrafluoroethylene (e-PTFE).

10 3. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the porous material is a hydrophobic material.

4. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the vent has a surface area ranging from about  
 $0.8\text{ cm}^2$  to about  $5.0\text{ cm}^2$ .

15 5. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the filter is flush with the outer surface of the tube.

6. The drip chamber of claim 5 wherein the vent is integral with the outer surface of the tube.

7. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the tube is rigid.

20 8. A drip chamber in a cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) drainage system comprising:  
a tube having an outer surface; and,  
a vent in fluid communication with the tube, the vent having a filter made of a porous  
material, the pore size of the filter ranging from greater than  $.45\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  to about  $5.0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , the filter  
25 being flush with the outer surface of the tube.

9. The drip chamber of claim 8 wherein the vent is integral with the outer surface of the  
tube.

30 10. The drip chamber of claim 8 wherein the porous material is expanded  
polytetrafluoroethylene (e-PTFE).

11. The drip chamber of claim 8 wherein the porous material is a hydrophobic material.
12. The drip chamber of claim 8 wherein the pore size of the filter is about 3  $\mu\text{m}$ .